



NEWSLETTER



October 2013

Rhode Island County Office

60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886

Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 am-4:30 pm

Phone

401-828-3120 Option 2
Or 1-800-551-5144

Farm Loan: Option 3

Fax: 401-821-0780

County Committee

Doreen Pezza-Chairperson
Gilbert W Rathbun Jr.-Vice
Chairperson
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member
Joseph Silveira-Member
Lauri Roberts-Member

County Office Staff

Ingrid Fratantuono, CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Leila Naylor, KPT
Sheryl Michener, PT

Farm Loan Staff

Roxanne Boisse, FLM
Sandra Steere-Loring, FLA

Next County Committee Meeting:

October 2, 2013 at 10:00 am

Rhode Island County FSA Updates

Fall is finally here and the fall fairs are in full swing. Currently the Rhode Island County Office staff is preparing to get DCP payments out timely this October. Several crop losses occurred this year due to the amount of moisture and precipitation that we received during the summer months which resulted in poor plant growth and plant disease. The Rhode Island County FSA Office is working with producers who are enrolled in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) who suffered crop losses this year. If you are interested in insuring your Perennial Crops under the NAP program for 2014, the sign up deadline is November 20th. Please contact the Rhode Island FSA County Office for more information.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on Dec.2, 2013.

2013 DCP Final Payments

DCP payments for 2013 will be issued after Oct. 1, 2013. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

GovDelivery

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers. Producers can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the local FSA office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact their local FSA office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, or marital or familial status, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Office of Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA,

Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD), USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. A complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days from the date the complainant knew, or should have known, of the alleged discrimination.

Farm Safety

Flowing grain in a storage bin or gravity-flow wagon is like quicksand — it can kill quickly. It takes less than five seconds for a person caught in flowing grain to be trapped. The mechanical operation of grain handling equipment also presents a real danger. Augers, power take offs, and other moving parts can grab people or clothing. These hazards, along with pinch points and missing shields, are dangerous enough for adults; not to mention children. It is always advisable to keep children a safe distance from operating farm equipment. Always use extra caution when backing or maneuvering farm machinery. Ensure everyone is visibly clear and accounted for before machinery is engaged. FSA wants all farmers to have a productive crop year and that begins with putting safety first.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).